

# West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service

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## OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA** - The forecast for the 2002 **apple** production is 95 million pounds (2.26 million 42-lb. bushel equivalents), down 5 million pounds or 5 percent from the August 1 forecast, and down 20 million pounds or 17 percent from the 2001 crop.

**Other hay** production is forecast at 936,000 tons, down 2 percent from the 2001 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 520,000 acres in 2002, down 10,000 acres from 2001. Yield is expected to average 1.8 tons per acre, unchanged from last year's yield. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2003.

The current estimate for **tobacco** production is 2.2 million pounds, up 15 percent from 2001. This estimate is carried forward from our August 1 forecast.

## UNITED STATES

**Apples:** The final production forecast for the 2002 crop year is 8.91 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and 7 percent below 2001. Of the seven States making October 1 production forecasts, all are lower except Virginia which is unchanged. The six States lowering their forecasts include Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Washington, and West Virginia. All three apple producing regions are forecasting decreases in production from the August 1 forecast. Compared to 2001, production decreases in the Eastern and Central States more than offset projected increases in the Western States.

**Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures:** Production is forecast at 74.7 million tons, virtually unchanged from August, but down 7 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.09 tons, which is the same as August, but down 0.28 ton from last year. Harvested area is 24.1 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate, but up 1 percent from 2001.

**Other Hay:** Production is forecast at 75.8 million tons, 3 percent below the August forecast, and 1 percent below last year. Yields are expected to average 1.87 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from the August forecast and 0.06 ton below 2001. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.6 million, unchanged from the last forecast, but up 2 percent from 2001.

**Corn for grain** production is forecast at 8.97 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month but down 6 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 127.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from September but down 11.0 bushels from last year. If realized, production would be at the lowest level since 1995. Yields are lower than last month in the eastern Corn Belt as farmers are starting to record actual harvested yields and realizing the overall effect the late spring plantings and summer drought conditions had on the crop. However, expected yields are up sharply in Iowa and Minnesota as conditions have been ideal during the entire growing season.

**Soybean** production is forecast at 2.65 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from September but 8 percent below 2001. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999.

**All Tobacco:** U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 886 million pounds, less than 1 percent below the September 1 forecast and down 11 percent from 2001. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1908. Revised area for harvest in 2002 is forecast at 434,310 acres, virtually unchanged from last month but up slightly from 2001. Yields for 2002 are expected to average 2,040 pounds per acre, 3 pounds higher than the September forecast but 253 pounds below a year ago.

**Burley Tobacco:** Production is expected to total 304 million pounds, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and 9 percent below last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 161,500 acres, down 2 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 1,880 pounds per acre, 8 pounds below the September forecast and down 153 pounds from 2001.

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